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[772]

Gods (104) saw the first knot's growth,

104. The reed of the magic arrow grew "through three realms"; these are the three realms of ancient Tibetan cosmology: the realm of the gods, the realm of human beings and that of the nymphs /or, sprites/ (nagas), the latter being under the earth.

Gods high and mighty saw it being formed.
Nymphs saw the second knot's growth,
Nymph Nor-dsom-mo, she saw it.
Men saw the third knot's growth,
Men of clever mind saw it come into being.

/99/ The Chirpon people:

Good!

The same: Say what is the reed's father's name (105)?

[774] 105. This discussion here concerns the father, mother and child of the reed. Buddhists, as well as Hindus, consider all things of nature as beings with souls, in that all possess something of the substance of the world soul (the Brahma).

Reed's mother's name--what might it be?
And the reed itself--what is it called?

The men from Kalatse (Dragshos people) answer:

Reed's father's name is "Great Reed" (rgya-smyug),
And its mother's name is--spindle reed (106) (p'aṅ-smyug),

[831] 106. The spindle is considered the symbol of the female, the arrow as that of the male sex. Compare the use of the "spear of Mars" to designate the male, and of the "apple of Aphrodite" to designate the female sex in Occidental scholarship.

And its own name is--arrow reed (md'a-msyug).

6: Gazetteer G-5 (ca. 1840-1883) 1883-4 AJ4 W. Tibetans AJ4

the face is always marked with lines and wrinkles. In fact, none of them can be said to be handsome, and the old women are quite hideous; the only redeeming point is the look of honesty and smiling good humour to be recognized in almost every countenance. In those parts of Láhaul in which there is most admixture of Hindú blood, the blending of the two types is very clearly distinguishable.

General character of the people of Láhaul and Spiti.

Mr. Lyall thus describes the character of the people of Láhaul and Spiti:—

"The character of the people is solid and conservative; their power of united action is considerable, as will be seen from the description I have given of the arrangements in force with regard to *begár* and common expenses; they seem to me not quick-witted, but eminently shrewd and sensible. Though they show great respect to their hereditary nobles and headmen, they would, I believe, combine at once to resist tyranny or infringement of custom on their part. The headmen have certainly been hitherto very careful not to offend public opinion. They have few ideas in respect of manners; when holding a court or a meeting, I have often seen the whole assembly burst into a roar of laughter on my making a mistake in the language of a ludicrous character, and a man would fill and light his pipe under my nose on similar occasions without thinking of asking leave. But these same people answered all my questions very carefully, and carried out my orders with great fidelity. Murder, theft, or violent assaults are almost unknown among them,* and they seem to me to be fair, and often kind, in their dealings with each other; on the other hand, I agree with Mr. Heyde in considering the standard of sobriety and chastity among them to be exceptionally low. Drinking is a common vice in all cold countries, and the want of chastity is accounted for by the custom of polyandry in Láhaul, and of celibacy of younger sons in Spiti, which leave a large proportion of the women in both countries unmarried all their lives. In spite of these two frailties the Botis seem to me (like the Scotch country people, who are also subject to them) to be an eminently religious race; they seem to think that to withstand these particular temptations is to be a saint, and that in ordinary men who do not aim so high, to succumb is quite venial. The lives of their saints are full of the most austere acts of virtue and mortification of the flesh commencing from the cradle, which are certainly calculated to make the ordinary mortal abandon the task of imitation in despair; and their religion, though it fails here, has, in my opinion, considerable influence for good in their minds in other respects; more at least than the forms of religion practised by other races, Hindú or Muhammadan, have at the present day in the parts of Hindústan with which I am acquainted. This is not surprising, as the moral teaching to be found in the Buddhist books is of a very high kind: the love of one's neighbour is one of its principles, and this is extended to include even the brute creation. So, again, though good works are balanced against sins, yet their worthlessness, when not done in a humble and reverent spirit, is recognized. In regard to veracity I have found them superior to Hindús; in hearing law

* Of late years the people of lower Pattan, in Láhaul, have got a character for picking and stealing from merchandise in their hands as carriers; but they are a race apart, of mixed blood and religion, descended for the most part from criminals from other countries, who took refuge here from justice in former days. Besides they have been demoralised lately by opportunity and impunity.

782 inscriptions and the rock drawings that are still preserved there. One inscription near Ke-sar-gyi-sga, which is not yet completely de-
782 cipherable, ends with the very clear syllables bu-skyes, "a son was
842 born." This is preceded by a date in the cycle of twelve, then there follows a name and the information (probably) that a stupa, a tower of relics, has been presented as an offering (2). The information

[113]

2. See my article, "Historische Dokumente" /Historic Documents/ and so forth, Z. D. M. G., Vol. LXI.

concerning the birth of a son in this place would lead one to conclude that here the people prayed for the blessing of offspring. This surmise becomes almost a certainty when we take into consideration the rock drawings and the charcoal drawings found in these places.
782 Near aBru-gui-phan-lo we find not only natural rock formations by
831 the cliff which resemble a spindle or the female sex organs, but we
532 also find, in addition, a great many charcoal drawings of the same
842 nature. In aBru-gui-dabs-khor I found charcoal drawings of a similar kind done on large, round, flat stones. On one stone the male and the female sex organs had been drawn together. On another stone I encountered pictures of two goats, evidently a male and a female, the male running after the other. In the back part of the body of the goat in front a little goat had been drawn in. I regard both drawings as prayers imploring the blessing of offspring. In the former case the drawing is supposed to express the wish to let the sexual organs perform their functions properly. This explanation is certainly not too far-fetched. Missionary Pibbach, who was formerly in Leh, also informs me that he frequently encountered representations of the male and the female sex organs made of lime. He likewise considers these representations as offerings accompanying prayers. This is reminiscent of the practice which appears in many places of making an offering of a pictorial representation of the sick part of the body. The picture of the goats mentioned above probably expresses the request for a child /28/ in an even clearer
[825] manner. The ram, like all male wild animals, seems to be sacred to Kesar. Otherwise the great mass of rock drawings, which always represent the same things, cannot be understood, for they certainly cannot be explained in every case as hunting reports. In addition to this we should mention the custom, already commented upon, of preserving the horns of the wild animals on pre-Buddhistic altars (lHa-tho). With respect to the rock drawings I should like to add the observation that I found especially many representations of the

spindle (or the female sex organs) in Lahoul in the valley of the Bhaga River. I noticed only one rock drawing there of the male sex organs. In that region the name Bhaga, which can be translated by "sex organ," may have given rise to the practice of decking out the rocks with such emblems. That they had confidence in the ability of Kesar (and of aBru-gu-ma) to dispense children, we see from the saga about rGyal-sa-dkar-po (see Paladins). There Kesar prophesies to a girl that she will not only get a wealthy husband but also that she will bear seven children.

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Festivals of the Ancient Tibetan Religion

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1. The New Year's festival (Lo-gsar). Of this festival, which probably corresponds to the ancient winter solstice, I possess one description which the schoolteacher of Khalatse prepared in Tibetan. In this document it is stated: From the fifteenth of the tenth month to the twenty-fourth, children carry torches to a certain field. From the twenty-fourth to the twenty-ninth they light a fire on the public dancing place where all the people gather. All the farmers bake a kind of bread called ba-ga-tam, and this bread they store away. Then the children go to all the doors and say:

This is a good day, a good star.
Ba-ga-tam belongs to this day,
Ba-ga-tam belongs to this star!
Now every day is a lucky one!
May every year be a lucky one!
The boys get brides for themselves,
Wedding feasts are held,
White beer is poured out,
White pieces of butter are given with it!
A ram is killed.
May a son be born to you!
Give us a ba-ga-tam -- bread!

In this way the children collect many loaves of the bread, which they then distribute and eat.

The thirtieth day is called sTon (assistance). Then the relatives entertain one another. In the afternoon the men march out to the field with torches and music. Here they play the bra-sol (?). Thereupon the Mon (Indian caste of carpenters) must perform five exorcisms of the devil (skrad), during which rifles are fired and everybody shouts "te-ya-ho." Then the torches are heaped up in one pile and a dance is done around them with swords and rifles, as

To this description should be added the killing of the goat, a gruesome sacrifice in front of the altar of the village god (Yul-lha). To the living animal has its heart ripped out of its body. 796

With respect to the dances and the disguises, it should also be pointed out that we are here dealing with games that symbolize in substance the battle between the gods of light and the demons of darkness. These games later developed into the famous masked dances of the monasteries. In Lamayuru these masked dances still take place today during the winter. In Hemis, on the other hand, they are performed in June. The celebration in Hemis may well be connected with the summer solstice. 796 535

2. gTor-ma-phan-ces. As the preceding description has indicated, a type of this festival is already connected with the New Year's festival. For the throwing away of the gTor-ma offering is very reminiscent of the driving out of winter. This finds an even clearer expression later on. Then a human doll is fashioned out of lime in Khalatse (and also elsewhere). This doll is then carried, with much shouting and music, outside the village, where it is destroyed. In Leh the evil spirits of winter and of the diseases are trapped inside cages (dos-mo) constructed out of rods and strings and looking like spider webs, and these structures are then destroyed outside the village. 796

3. The Kesar festival. So far I have found this festival referred to as the "Kesar festival" only in Upper Kunawar. In Ladakh it is simply called mDa-phan-ces, "shooting with bow and arrow." It is celebrated in the spring. The songs that are known under the name of Glin-glu are sung, and the young people amuse themselves with archery. Just as the spindle is the emblem of aBru-gu-ma and of the female in general, so the arrow is considered the symbol of Kesar and the male. In the /30/ following I shall give the titles of the songs of the Glin-glu: In Phyi-dban the following songs are sung: 1. Kesar, the conqueror of the four worlds. 2. Slumber song for the little Kesar. 3. Kesar and the treasures of the giants. 4. Praise of the wisdom of aBru-gu-ma. 5. The almighty father of the gods and mother of the gods. 6. The return of Kesar and of aBu-gu-ma. 7. Don-grub, a voluntary savior of the world. 8. aBru-gu-ma's innocence. 9. The prayer of the king of Hor asking for his life. [831]

In Khalatse the following songs are sung: 1. Voices from heaven. 2. Dedication of the arrows. 3. Kesar's four victories. 4. Kesar and the mules. 5. Kesar's prayer on the Srar mountain pass. 6. Kesar's return to aBru-gu-ma. 7. aBru-guma's farewell

Number 23. Male and female sex organs (request for the blessing of offspring). 531 842 831

" 24. Spindles or form of the yoni (requests for the blessing of offspring).

" 25. A little kid goat in the back part of the big goat's body (request for the blessing of offspring).

" 26. Spindle or yoni.

" 27, 31, and 35. Sun symbols. 821 531

" 36. Moon symbol.

" 28, 29, and 30. Games at religious festivals (harvest festival). 28 and 29, standing on the horse; 30, a fabulous animal, is represented by throwing a blanket over several people. 531 527 796

/71/ Numbers 32, 33, 34, and 37. Forms of the swastika. 32, 33, and 37 are forms in the official Bon religion. 34 is the form in Buddhism, as well as that in the mythology of the saga world. 821 531 793

Numbers 38 and 39. Hands (symbols of Wednesday?). 531 805 821

Origin of the Rock Drawings [1]

Table I: All from the banks of the Indus River near Khalatse. 531

Table II: Numbers 6 and 10 from the banks of the Indus River near Khalatse; Numbers 7 and 11 from the /?/ yed mountain pass in Zans-dkar; number 8 from sBa-lu-mkhar; number 9 from A-ci-na-than; number 12 from Khalatse; number 15 from Kesar's Saddle near Khalatse; and numbers 14 and 16 from mDa.

Table III: Number 17 from sNye-tse in Zans-dkar, numbers 18 and 19 from the /?/ yed mountain pass in Zans-dkar; number 20 from Hu-nu-pa-ta; number 21 from mDo-mkhar; numbers 22, 23, and 25 from aBru-gui-dabs-khor. Number 24 from Khyun-ran-byon;

1 [See pp. 93-99, category 116 -- Analysis]